

## CHAPTER II.

### CONSTITUTION OF NORTH CAROLINA.

#### DERIVATION AND EXPLANATION OF TERMS.

**Affirm.** (Latin *affirmare*, to make firm.) To assert positively ; to promise solemnly to tell the truth, or to promise solemnly to perform a duty. The promise is made before an authorized person, either a judge or other officer having legal authority to administer an oath. Persons who have conscientious objections to taking an oath are permitted to affirm, and any person who, after legally affirming, says what is not true, is guilty of **perjury**. This is a crime punishable by law. Perjury is to affirm, or to swear to, what is false.

**Amend.** (Latin *e*, out of, and *menda*, a fault.) To alter so as to improve. An *amendment* to a constitution, a law, or a resolution proposed at a meeting, would be a change intended as an improvement.

**Article.** (Latin *artus*, a joint.) Besides several other meanings this word signifies a portion of any written statement or declaration, which consists of two or more parts or sections.

**Elector.** (Latin *e*, out of, and

*lectus*, chosen.) An elector is one who votes at an election, which means *choosing out* a person for public office or other distinction.

**Oath.** (Old English *othe*.) A solemn declaration by any person that what he states is the truth. A person who is called before a court to give evidence at a trial, that is, to tell what he knows about the case, is required to take an oath that he will tell the truth. The oath is taken with the right hand placed upon a Bible or Testament. It is usually in this form : " I solemnly swear that I will tell the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth. So help me God." (See under *affirm*.)

**Ordinance.** (Latin *ordo*, order.) A law or rule established by authority.

**Ratify.** (Latin *ratus*, established, and *facere*, to make.) To approve what has been done by another ; to make valid or *established*.

**Section.** (Latin *sectus*, cut off.) A portion of something, as of a book or other writing ; also a part of a country.